



# MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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[www.marinwater.org](http://www.marinwater.org)

January 6, 2006

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Gov. Schwarzenegger,

At the United Nations World Environment Day in San Francisco last June, you sent a clear signal that California is serious about reducing our contributions to global warming. You said: "I say the debate is over. We know the science. We see the threat. And we know the time for action is now."

We agree. We urge you and your administration to move forward expeditiously in implementing strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in our state to meet the targets you set: reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 2000 levels by 2020, to 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050.

Recent research demonstrates the impacts that global warming could have on the American West. We are already seeing some of the changes predicted by climate researchers: decreasing snowpack, rising sea levels and changes in the timing of runoff. Climate change is also likely to significantly increase the risks to the vulnerable Delta levee system. Taken together, these climate-related impacts could have serious impacts on California's water supply and economy. We thank you for acknowledging these impacts in your statements.

Fortunately, California is uniquely positioned to take the lead in developing policies to address global warming. The state's policies should be based on a comprehensive analysis and robust public process, and should show how the different strategies will lead to attainment of the targets. Two initial steps that should be explored immediately include a cap on, and mandatory reporting of, greenhouse gas emissions.

We can do it – and we must do it, for our economy and our way of life. We must start now to develop water and energy conservation measures and advanced, clean technologies that can effectively reduce California's contributions to global warming. Our agency has made a commitment to reducing its climate change emissions by implementing state-of-the-art conservation programs that save not only water, but also the energy required to collect, treat and distribute it. We have also reduced our emissions through the use of low-emission and hybrid vehicles technologies. We are the first water district to join the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, an international group of local governments that is taking action to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.

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You have our support in this effort, Governor Schwarzenegger. We urge you to take strong action now to ensure that California's global warming targets are implemented.

Sincerely,



Paul Helliker  
General Manager

cc: Allan Lloyd, Secretary for Environmental Protection